

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 30-33, 35-40, 42-47 and 49-54 are pending. Claims 30, 33, 35-40, 42-43, 47 and 49-54 have been amended. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

1. Specification

The specification was objected to because "now U.S. Patent No. 6,917,069" should be inserted in the first line of the specification after "filed October 17, 2001." The specification has been so amended.

2. Rejection of Claims 29-33, 35-38, 41-47 and 49-52 Under §103

Claims 29-33, 35-38, 41-47 and 49-52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 6,316,315 (Hofmann) in view of "Thermal Oxidation of Single Crystal Silicon", Silicon Processing for the VLSI Era – Vol. 1: Process Technology (Wolf).

Independent claims 29 and 41 have been cancelled, and claims 30-33, 35-38, 42-47 and 49-52 have been amended to depend on allowable claim 39 or 53, thus rendering this rejection moot.

3. Allowable Subject Matter


The Examiner indicated that claims 39, 40, 53 and 54 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 39, 40, 53 and 54 have been so amended.

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For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in an allowable form, and action to that end is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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